

Appln No. 09/866,546

Amdt date August 4, 2005

Reply to Office action of June 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. By this Amendment and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination Applicant has amended the application as follows. The specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors and add reference designations set forth in the drawings. Claims 1 - 4, 6 and 7 have been amended. Claims 9 and 15 have been canceled. Claims 21 - 26 have been added.

Claims 1 - 8, 10 - 14 and 16 - 26 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the rejections and reexamination of this application are hereby requested.

Response to the Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the final Office action dated April 4, 2005, claims 1, 2, 9 - 11 and 15 - 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devon, U.S. Patent No. 5,546,211. Claims 1 and 2 are independent claims.

In the final Office action dated April 4, 2005, claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 12 - 14 and 18 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devon in view of Nevo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,600,726 ("Nevo"). Claims 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devon and Nevo in view of Hollstrom et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0056502 ("Hollstrom"). Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are independent claims.

Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine Devon and Nevo because they are directed to different problems and different technology. Devon

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is directed an IR system where the problem being solved relates to determining which one of several IR protocols is currently being received so that the system may be configured to recover those signals. This is not a concern in Nevo. Nevo is directed to a communication system that establishes simultaneous communication with two networks. Hence, Nevo automatically connects to the networks and does not need to reconfigure itself to connect to a single one. Moreover, the problem being solved in Nevo is that the simultaneous communications may interfere with one another. This is not a problem in Devon since only one IR protocol is transmitted at a time. Since the two references are related to different problems and technologies, one skilled in the art would not have looked to combine these references.

The mere mention of RF communications systems in Devon does not provide the requisite motivation to combine. There is no suggestion that the techniques of that application are applicable to RF system or vice versa. Moreover, there is no suggestion that the particular sequential techniques identified by the Examiner should or could be incorporated into an RF system.

Applicant also maintains that the references considered either independently or in combination do not teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims. As noted above, Devon relates to determining which one of several IR protocols is currently being received so that the system may be configured to recover those signals. Here, only one signal is sent at a time. Nevo relates to simultaneous connections. In contrast, the claims relate to selecting one of multiple networks and/or

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switching between networks. Moreover, neither of the references teaches or suggests "sequentially scanning for polling messages from a plurality of network masters of a plurality of time-synchronous RF networks to determine whether communications may be established with one of the networks; and selecting, in accordance with a predefined criteria, one of the networks associated with one of the received polling messages" as claimed in claims 1, 2 and 26. Neither of these references teaches or suggests "selecting, in accordance with a priority, either a network that operates in accordance with the Bluetooth standard or a network that operates in accordance with the HomeRF standard" as claimed in claim 3. Neither of these references teaches or suggests "sequentially performing, at periodic intervals, network scans; and switching from the selected network to another network" as claimed in claims 3 and 4. Neither of these references teaches or suggests "sequentially performing, at periodic intervals, network scans; selecting, in accordance with a predefined priority, a network that operates in accordance with the Bluetooth standard or a network that operates in accordance with the 802.11b standard; and changing the predefined priority to switch from the selected network to another network" as claimed in claim 6. Neither of these references teaches or suggests "sequentially performing, at periodic intervals, network scans; notifying a user of availability of a network; selecting a network . . . according to user input; and switching from the selected network to another network" as claimed in claim 7.

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In view of the above, Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the independent claims or the dependent claims. In addition, the dependent claims are patentable over these references for the additional limitations that the dependent claims contain.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the references of record. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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